

OCT 17TH 2005: EPHESIANS 3:14-21

Last Sundays service was I feel a truly precious one.....We encountered God together
And so many shared.....of their thankfulness to God.....

That we were able to sincerely praise Him with full hearts

It is with that same desire to Praise God.....that we come to God's Word this morning
For our focus is on...2 verses in Eph 3....known as a doxology.....
because they urge us 2 proclaim the Glory and Honour that belongs.....

Look with me at Ephesians 3:20-21

**Now to Him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask
or imagine, according to His power that is at work within us, to
Him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all
generations, for ever and ever ! Amen.**

The main direction is found in the words underlined

To Him.....(that is from v14) to.....The Ultimate Father....Almighty God
Be Glory

NOW.....It is not us giving God Glory

But us recognizing the GLORY that is His

SO what is this glory ??

It's a recognition of God's supreme greatness over all

And the adoration that naturally follows on

(In 1715 Louis.....p168 Illustrations for Biblical Preaching.)

We are called to acknowledge God's Glory this morning.....Because He alone is God

He alone is Great.....

He alone not only merits....Adoration....**But because** He is God.....demands...

Romans 11:33-36.....

Our Society flirts constantly.....and dangerously.....very shallow view of God
(How often on TV do you heard the phrase.....Oh my God.....)

We need to be so careful that we don't present a God that is so small.....
That we end up thinking.....that He is simply there to make life good for us

God's glory is how we describe the sum effect of all of His attributes

The glory that is God's is His in His essence
You can't de-glorify God because glory is His nature.
You can't touch His glory.
It cannot be taken away. It cannot be added to.....It's His being

*When a man becomes a king.....he is given earthly glory.....
It is granted to him because of his position.....
It is supported by the clothes....palace...authority....*

*But if you take away.....give him rags.....leave him in the streets.....
When put next to a beggar....never know which.....For he has no intrinsic glory*

God's glory is His...because He is God.....None gave it to Him....none can take it

BUT

An even more glorious truth is that God has shown something of that Glory to us.....
Through His mighty Acts

Through:

The Act of Creation (In a book entitled Is a Blue Whale.....p83 contemporary Illustrations)

Through.....The Act of Redemption.....of sending His Son...Rev 7:9-12.....
The Son who now shares that Glory.....Rev 5:13-14.....

Is it any wonder that Paul writes

Now to Him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine

FOR who...ever imagine...that God would so love the world...OR who would dare ask...

And then there is yet another way.....that God shows us something of His glory
And that is through His power.....working in the lives of believers.....making them like...
verse 20.....

That power of God at work in us.....is through the presence of the Holy Spirit
It is such an amazing work of God's Glory...in us

There is no limit to what God will do in us.....when we make ourselves available to Him

He will transform us

He will out of His glorious riches strengthen us with power in our inner beings
He will fill us to the measure of the fullness of God

All this is both the outcome of His Glory...

AND the reason why we need to proclaim His glory loud and clear

We who have received so much.....should be eager to proclaim His glory
In our times of worship.....and in those times....able to speak of Him to others

But what this text specifies most.....is that to God be glory in the church and in....

(Justin.....so much like his dad.....In the Way Justin lives...glory for me)

In a much greater way.....there was Glory for the Father through the obedience of..
Jesus said in John 17:4

What this Scripture is seeking.....is that there will be found in the life of the Church

→ And because the church is us.....be found in our lives<=

A way of living out our faith.....that will give God glory

So when the angels look at Christ's Church on earth.....they will say.....
Those people are just like.....their Heavenly Father

And there is only one way for that to happen.....And that is for each of us....
To allow God to be in control

To go from self-controlling.....To God controlling our lives

One writer put it like this.....p247.....(Illustrations Unlimited)

Now to Him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to His power that is at work within us, to Him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever ! Amen.

